13. *External Use of Conia.*—Conia (or conein), as most of our readers are aware, is an oleaginous fluid, which is the active principle of hemlock. **Murawjeff**, a Russian physician, has found it to be efficacious in the following diseases: (*a*). In chronic skin diseases, it allays irritation and favours the cure. He has used it successfully in eczema, psoriasis, acne, lichen, psora, prurigo, &c. He recommends it in favus, and regards it as a specific for that disease when affecting the scrotum. (*b*). In toothache, one drop allays the pain more rapidly and effectually than even chloroform. (*c*). In neuralgia and syphilitic pains of the bones, he alleges that it is not a mere palliative, but a radical cure. (*d*). In chronic synovitis, its use is beneficial, as also in allaying the pain of (*e*) incised and gunshot wounds. (*f*). In scrofulous and rheumatic inflammation of the eyes, it speedily diminishes the severity of the symptoms. (*g*). It palliates the pain in scrofulous and cancerous ulcers. The mode of its employment is as follows: In skin diseases, an ointment is used composed of from twelve to twenty-four drops of conein to ℥i of ung. simpl. or cold cream. The diseased parts having been first rubbed with soft flannel, the ointment is applied to them, and they are then covered with oiled silk and a bandage. In neuralgia, he first washes the part affected with spirits of wine, and then applies to it three or four drops of pure conein, covering it thereafter with oiled silk and a bandage. In cancer, he mixes the alkaloid with mucilage, and applies it to the diseased surface with the finger, previously covered with a glove. For a collyrium he adds 1-3 drops to ʒvi of Aq. destil. and ʒij of decoct. cydonii; and, when used as an enema, he administers two or three drops in starch emulsion.—*Dublin Hospital Gaz.* April 15, 1855, from *Med. Zeit. Russl.* 17, 1854.

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14. *External Uses of the Acid Nitrate of Mercury.*—A solution of the nitrate of mercury in strong nitric acid is in very common use at the Hospital for Cutaneous Diseases, and constitutes a very convenient form of caustic. Its formula is—℞. Hydrargyri ℥j, acidi nitrici (specific gravity 1.50) ℥ij; solve. The solution produced is a clear, colourless fluid. The following may be mentioned as some of its chief uses:—

In Carbuncle.—Mr. Startin usually applies the caustic if the carbuncle be of not more than moderate size, to but one central spot, where it is freely painted for an extent of about a shilling in size. Its effect is to produce an eschar, from beneath which the core afterwards escapes.

In Acne.—A very minute drop of the acid is placed, by means of a finely-pointed glass brush, on the apex of any indolent tubercles, whether suppurated or otherwise. It has the effect of opening the pustule, if matter have formed, and if not, induces the disappearance of the induration. The application is followed only by a little smarting pain, and if it have been carefully made leaves no scar.

In Boils.—There can, we think, be little doubt as to the superiority of the caustic treatment over that by the knife, even in the case of very large boils. The pain of the incision, the large sore caused, and the unsightly scar which follows, constitute very formidable drawbacks to a practice for which there is no real necessity. At this hospital, where cases of boils are very common, the knife is never resorted to. The general treatment consists in giving aperients and steel conjointly, and the local in applying to the apex of the furuncle a full-sized drop of the acid nitrate solution. The morbid action generally terminates coincidently with the application, and the core is thrown off through a comparatively small opening, the resulting cicatrix being insignificant.

In Lupus.—The acid nitrate is one of the most efficient and convenient forms of caustic in this disease. Mr. Startin does not, however, employ it solely, but uses also the biniodide of mercury, and a paste of which arsenic is the principal ingredient. The acid nitrate is chiefly used in indolent tubercles, and to indurated patches not actually ulcerated. After ulceration has occurred the arsenical paste is preferred.

For Sloughing Ulcers.—The practice of treating unhealthy ulcerations, wherever situated, by means of caustics, is much pursued at this hospital, and with excellent results. The pain attending the application of nitric acid has been much overrated by the profession generally, and its use has consequently been avoided in many instances in which it would have been efficient to completely change the course of the morbid action and induce healthy processes. Its powers in cases of phagedæna are now widely recognized, and its use will probably soon extend to various other kinds of ulceration of somewhat similar nature, but much less severity. The pain spontaneously caused by an unhealthy sore during a single night is probably much more than that produced by an application of caustic. In most cases of sloughing or unhealthy ulcers Mr. Startin employs either the solution of the acid nitrate or the arsenical paste just referred to. The rapidity with which the surface granulates afterwards is often surprising.

In Moles, Nævi, etc.—Small moles on the face, if superficial and not too thick, may be readily destroyed by the acid nitrate. A cicatrix of course results, but it is small, and far less unsightly than the original disease. Small cutaneous nævi are often treated both at this and the various other London Hospitals, by means of the nitric acid. Unless the disease be of very small extent, the employment of a ligature appears to be a much more certain means of effecting the end desired. If there be a subcutaneous base to the morbid structure it often persists in growing, despite frequent applications of escharotics. There is a mild form of dilated cutaneous capillaries which produces the marks known as "port-wine stains," "spiders," etc., in the treatment of which much benefit may be obtained by the dexterous application of fluid caustics. With a finely-pointed glass brush, charged either with nitric acid or the acid nitrate of mercury, the tortuous vascular trunks should be severally painted, a minute streak of the caustic being thus left along the whole course. In this way, by repeated applications, the whole of the larger vessels may be destroyed, and the disfigurement, to a large extent, diminished. The "port-wine stain" is of course very much more difficult to remove than the less diffused forms of this condition, such, for instance, as are of frequent occurrence on the cheeks or nose; even in it, however, much benefit may by patient treatment be gained.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, January 6, 1855.

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15. *Glass Brushes for Applying Fluid Caustics.*—It is desirable, in the use of any of the mineral acids as escharotics, that their strength should not be diminished by the employment of any material susceptible of being charred. A serious objection, therefore, lies against the use of wood, cotton-wool, lint, etc., all of which have been recommended for that purpose. Glass is by far the best material, being at once durable, cleanly, easy of use, and quite insusceptible of the action of the fluid. A glass rod, rounded at one end, and drawn to a fine point at the other, may be made to serve most purposes, one or the other extremity being employed according as it is wished to apply the acid over a large or a small extent of surface. A few brushes, of different sizes, made of spun glass, are, however, yet more convenient. Those sold in the shops are much too large for most of the purposes mentioned in the above notice of the uses of the acid nitrate, and we have seen none which would exactly meet the required conditions, excepting those in use at the Hospital for Skin Diseases. With a little glass tubing, of the thickness of a quill, a skein of spun glass, and a little sealing-wax, they may be inexpensively made by any one of ordinary ingenuity. The brush part is first made by uniting together with sealing-wax a tuft of the spun material, and is then introduced into the end of a tube, which has been either flattened out or brought nearly to a point while heated. A little additional heat easily fixes the tuft in position, and by scissors it may then be cut down to the requisite size.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, January 6, 1855.

16. *Pencils of Diluted Lunar Caustic.*—At the Samaritan Hospital, Mr. Spencer Wells has introduced the use of nitrate of silver in the solid form, diluted by a mixture of one, two, or three parts of nitrate of potass. The salts are melted together, poured into moulds, and allowed to cool. Those used by Mr. Wells are prepared by Mr. Bastick, Chemist, of Brook Street. They have certain advantages in practical application over solutions of the same strength. When applied to the conjunctiva of the eyelid, for instance, it is not easy to